

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 3, 33, 38 and 46 have been canceled.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 4-31, 34-36, 39-45, and 47-51 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-31, 33-36, 38-45, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,664,971 (hereafter “Soens”) in view of Applicant’s disclosure on page 5, lines 21-26, i.e. EP 0 953 651, and U.S. Patent No. 2,050,298 (hereafter “Everett”) or U.S. Patent No. 3,379,000 (hereafter “Webber et al.”).

Claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 13, 15-17, 21-30, 36, 38-45, 49, 50, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,904,980 in view of Applicant’s disclosure on page 5, lines 21-26, i.e. EP 0 953 651, Soens, and Everett.

The Office indicated that claims 46-48 contain allowable subject matter. Independent claims 1, 31, and 36 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 46. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 1, 4-31, 34-36, 39-45, and 47-51 contain allowable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

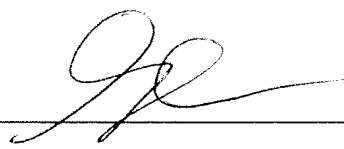
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date MAR 14 2007

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